

Application No. 10/644,135
Amendment dated 09/14/2005
Reply to Office Action of June 20, 2006

02-ASD-334 (EM)

REMARKS

§ 112 rejection

Claims 1-9 and 15-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended the claims to correct the antecedent basis issues noted by the Examiner and to clarify that the circuit board has the claimed sensing aperture. The specification describes this arrangement at paragraph [0014]. Figure 1 shows one embodiment having a circuit board 38 with a sensing aperture 46 that is aligned with a pressure sensing port 30 in the valve body 12. Withdrawal of the rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

§ 102 rejection

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over DE 198 39 843 to Hilberer ("Hilberer"), which corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,817,247. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The amended claims clarify that the pressure sensing port in the valve body and the sensing aperture in the circuit board are aligned with each other so that the pressure sensor fluidly communicates with the pressure sensor through the sensing aperture in a simple manner.

Hilberer fails to disclose the invention because it does not show a pressure sensor having a sensing aperture aligned with a pressure sensing port in a valve body. Applicant respectfully notes that the pressure sensors 8 in Hilberer do not measure the pressure at the valves 12. Instead, the sensors 8 measure the fluid pressure in the pressure medium outlet bore 17, which is coupled to a regulating unit 11.

The Examiner asserted that the housing member 4 is a valve block 4 and therefore meets the recitation of the claimed valve body (p. 3). Applicant respectfully disagrees. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have considered the valve block 4 in Hilberer the same as the claimed valve body because the valve block 4 is, in essence, a manifold and not a valve body as is understood in the art. For purposes

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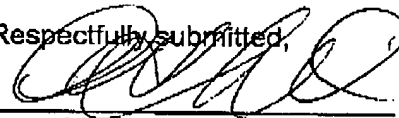
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of clarification only, Applicant has amended the claims to recite that the valve body is a solenoid valve body.

As noted in the previous response, Figure 1 of Hilberer shows that the pressure sensors 8 are located remotely from the solenoid valves 12, making it impossible for the circuit board 17 and pressure sensors 8 to be arranged so that the pressure sensing port of the valve body is aligned with the sensing aperture of the circuit board. Nothing in Hilberer discloses or suggests a circuit board that having any portion of a pressure sensor that is aligned with a pressure sensing port in a valve body like the claimed invention. Hilberer therefore fails to anticipate claims 1-20, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 05-0275.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated:06/20/06

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